

Call of the Canyon

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 25, 2006

Fall Calendar of Events

Scorpions

Have you ever wanted to see a scorpion up-close? Join park staff and explore the Sand Dunes in search of resident scorpions. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Saturday, September 23, 2006
8 to 9:30 p.m.**

Kids will be Kids

Bring the entire family to find out what it was like to be a pioneer kid. Learn the games they played and create your own pioneer toys to take home with you. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Tuesday, October 3, 2006
7 to 8:30 p.m.**

Moonlit Hike

Explore the nighttime sights and sounds of the canyon during a two-mile round-trip moonlit hike. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Saturday, October 7, 2006
8:30 to 10 p.m.**

Wildlife Tracks

Join park staff on a two and a half mile round-trip hike and learn to identify different animal tracks. If conditions permit, you will make plaster casts of tracks to take home. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Saturday, October 21, 2006
9 to 10:30 a.m.**

Halloween Storytelling Trail

Bring the entire family and enjoy a short Halloween night hike full of storytelling fun sprinkled with a dash of fright. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Friday, October 27 AND
Saturday, October 28, 2006
7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**



The great horned owl is the largest 'eared' owl in North America. Great horned owls have large eyes and excellent sight. If a great horned owl was the size of a human, its eyes would be as large as oranges!

Simple Campfire Desserts

Join us around a toasty campfire to bake and sample some simple campfire desserts. Leave with recipes for your next camping trip. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Saturday, November 18, 2006
7 to 8 p.m.**

Johnson Canyon Hikes

Join us Thursdays in October and learn more about the natural and cultural history of Johnson Canyon as you traverse lava flows and a desert scrub community. Space is limited. Registration required.

Call for more details.

PARTICIPATE IN A WORK PARTY:

Do you love Snow Canyon and spending time outdoors? You can make a difference in the park by helping to stamp out non-native weeds. Join us for a work party and we'll teach you everything you need to know.

- Meet other interested and interesting volunteers
- Enjoy the outdoors and tasty drinks and snacks
- Gain satisfaction from knowing that you can make a difference

Johnson Canyon Tamarisk Removal Work Parties:

- **Saturday, September 9,
9 to 11 a.m.**
- **Saturday, September 16,
9 to 11 a.m.**

All listed events are free and open to the public. Due to popular demand, program registration is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the two days preceding the scheduled event. Please register by phone or in person. For more information or to register for a program contact park staff at (435)628-2255.

New Faces at Snow Canyon

There have been a lot of changes at Snow Canyon. Former Park Naturalist Kristen Comella is now Park Manager. Travis Nye is our new Assistant Manager and Law Enforcement Officer, and Caitlin Hutter is the new Park Naturalist. Drop by headquarters and introduce yourself, we'd love to meet you.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Deserts are second only to tropical rain forests in the variety of plants and animals that live there.
- Approximately one-fifth of the world's surface is covered by deserts.
- Deserts are areas that get less than 10 inches of rain per year. St. George gets about 7.5 inches per year.

Snow Canyon State Park

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Fairy shrimp are small crustaceans, 1/2—1 1/2 inches in size that feed on algae and dead matter in temporary pools where they live. Since there is no guarantee how long the pools will last, these creatures can complete their life cycle in as little as 16 days.

A Paradox in the Desert

It's late August in the desert. Thunderstorms are brewing in the distance, bubbling up above the horizon like boiling water in a pot. The monsoon season is here. Winds that normally blow out of the northwest have shifted direction and now carry moisture laden air from the southeast causing powerful thunderstorms, lightning and flash floods.

The term 'monsoon' actually refers to this shift in wind direction, not the rain it brings. At first glance, the storms, lightning and floods appear to be nothing but destructive forces, yet when viewed more

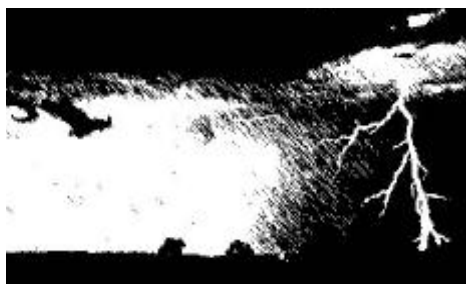
closely there are many beneficial surprises. For instance, the storms bring life-giving rains that allow plants such as chinchweed

been dry for more than five years. Lightning strikes, associated with monsoons, are actually an important fertilizing agent.

When lightning strikes it allows nitrogen to move from the atmosphere to a form that plants can use for growth.

The monsoon season is truly a paradox in the desert, having

destructive and beneficial aspects at the same time. Next time the sky darkens and the clouds rumble, remember to respect the destructive and dangerous power of monsoons, but also to look closely at the beauty and life it leaves in its wake.



and desert marigold to bloom. Temporary pools come to life with fairy shrimp, one of the strangest and most primitive of desert creatures. Fairy shrimp are crustaceans, distantly related to the shrimp found in the supermarket, whose eggs can hatch in pools that have

Utah State Parks:
*Providing opportunities to
improve the quality of life in
Utah through parks, programs,
and employees serving the
public.*

